



ST.  
**FRANCIS XAVIER**  
CATHOLIC PARISH

February 22nd, 2026

*In Thee, O Lord, have I put my  
hope. Let me never be confounded.*

- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

This Sunday, the first of the six which come during Lent, is one of the most solemn throughout the year. It has the same privilege as Passion and Palm Sundays, - that is, it never gives place to any Feast, not even to that of the Patron, Titular Saint, or Dedication of the Church. In the ancient Calendars, it is called *Invocavit*, from the first word of the Introit of the Mass. In the Middle-Ages [More especially in France.], it was called *Brand Sunday*, because the young people, who had misconducted themselves during the carnival, were obliged to show themselves to-day, at the Church, with a torch in their hands, as a kind of public satisfaction for their riot and excess.

Lent solemnly opens to-day. We have already noticed, that the four preceding days were added since the time of St. Gregory the Great, in order to make up Forty days of fasting. Neither can we look upon Ash Wednesday as the solemn opening of the Season, for the Faithful are not bound to hear Mass on that day. The Holy Church, seeing her children now assembled together, speaks to them, in her Office of Matins, these eloquent and noble words of St. Leo the Great: "Having to announce to you, dearly beloved, the most sacred and chief Fast, how can I more appropriately begin, than with the words of the Apostle, (in whom Christ himself spoke,) and by saying to you what has just been read: Behold! now is the acceptable time; behold! now is the day of salvation. For although there be no time, which is not replete with divine gifts, and we may always, by God's grace, have access to his mercy, - yet ought we all to redouble our efforts to make spiritual progress and be animated with unusual confidence, now that the anniversary of the day of our Redemption is approaching, inviting us to devote ourselves to every good work, that so we may celebrate, with purity of body and mind, the incomparable Mystery of our Lord's Passion.

"It is true, that our devotion and reverence towards so great a Mystery should be kept up during the whole year, and we ourselves be, at all times, in the eyes of God, the same as we are bound to be at the Easter Solemnity. But this is an effort which only few among us have the courage to sustain. The weakness of the flesh induces us to relent our austerities; the various occupations of every-day life take up our thoughts; and thus, even the virtuous find their hearts clogged by this world's dust. Hence it is, that our Lord has most providentially given us these Forty Days, whose holy exercises should be to us a remedy, whereby to regain our purity of soul. The good works and the holy fastings of this Season were instituted as an atonement and obliteration of the sins we commit during the rest of the Year.

## “Tale of Two Adams” : Reflection on The First Sunday of Lent

In today’s Liturgy, the destiny of the human race is told as the tale of two “types” of men—the first man, Adam, and the new Adam, Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 15:21–22; 45–59).

Paul’s argument in the Epistle is built on a series of contrasts between “one” or “one person” and “the many” or “all.” By one person’s disobedience, sin and condemnation entered the world, and death came to reign over all. By the obedience of another one, grace abounded, all were justified, and life came to reign for all.

This is the drama that unfolds in today’s First Reading and Gospel.

Formed from the clay of the ground and filled with the breath of God’s own Spirit, Adam was a son of God (see Luke 3:38), created in His image (see Genesis 5:1–3). Crowned with glory, he was given dominion over the world and the protection of His angels (see Psalms 8:6–8; 91:11–13). He was made to worship God—to live not by bread alone but in obedience to every word that comes from the mouth of the Father.

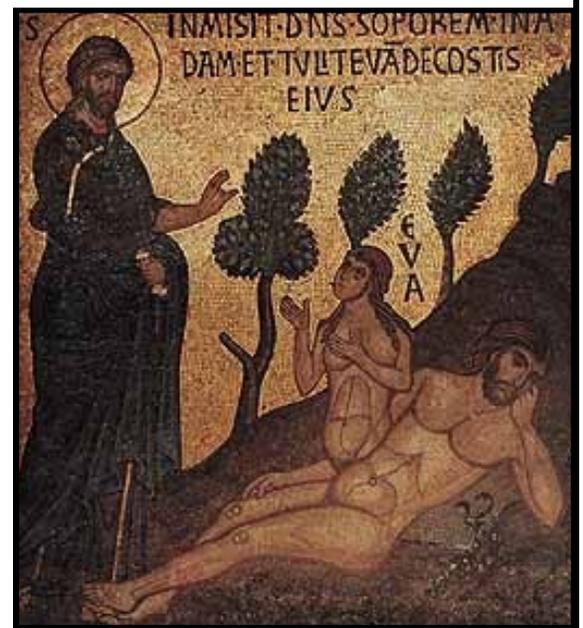
Adam, however, put the Lord his God to the test. He gave in to the serpent’s temptation, trying to seize for himself all that God had already promised him. But in His hour of temptation, Jesus prevailed where Adam failed—and drove the devil away.

Still, we sin after the pattern of Adam’s transgression. Like Adam, we let sin in the door (see Genesis 4:7) when we entertain doubts about God’s promises, when we forget to call on Him in our hours of temptation.

But the grace won for us by Christ’s obedience means that sin is no longer our master.

As we begin this season of repentance, we can be confident in His compassion, that He will create in us a new heart (see Romans 5:5; Hebrews 8:10). As we do in today’s Psalm, we can sing joyfully of our salvation, renewed in His presence.

*Scott Hahn*



The parish staff knows of the following who are ill, in retired living accommodations, etc. **If you are aware of others, please let Father or the parish office know:** Bella Mally, Jim Moore, Jane Soars, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Kathy McCarthy, Ken Keyes,, Mildred Crawford, and the residents of Franklin Hills Care Center and Cherrywood Place.

Prayers for the infirm and homebound are a work of mercy.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday

3pm – Confessions (St. Francis Xavier)

4pm – Vigil Mass (St. Francis Xavier)

Sunday

7:30am – Holy Mass,  
(St. Francis Xavier)

9:00am – Holy Mass (St. Patrick)

11:00am – Holy Mass,  
(St. Francis Xavier)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the parish office by email to arrange a baptism, marriage, or funeral, or to request a certificate.

To request the offering of the Holy Mass for your intention, please email the office or leave your intention in the Sunday collection basket.

St. Francis Xavier can be found online at [sfxspokane.org](http://sfxspokane.org) or at [facebook.com/sfxspokane](https://facebook.com/sfxspokane)

Our Mailing Address is:  
P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

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Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363

Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: [pastor@sfxspokane.org](mailto:pastor@sfxspokane.org)

Office Email: [office@sfxspokane.org](mailto:office@sfxspokane.org)

Office Hours.

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

5:30pm Mass *Fr Gustavo's Mother Juana Juarez*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

8:00am Mass *Bill Kilgore*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

12:00pm English at St Patrick Parish

5:30pm Latin St Francis Xavier

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

8:00am Mass *All Deceased Member's Duffy-O'Brian Family*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper, Mary Queen Parish 5:30pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

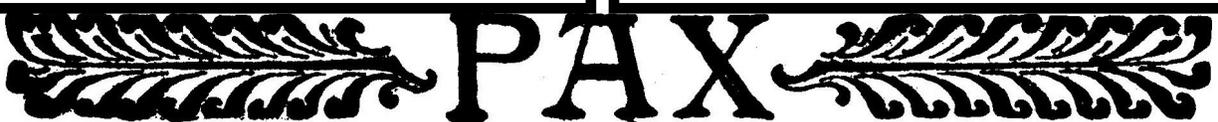
3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass *Pro Populo*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

7:30 am, Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00 am, High Mass *Pro Populo*





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## Seven Sisters Apostolate

The parish is looking for volunteers who would be interested in participating in the “Seven Sisters Apostolate.” This Apostolate seeks to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed every day for the intention of the parish priest.

The Apostolate is for women, and involves a commitment of praying in the church one day a week. If you are interested, please contact Patty Parra at (509) 362-8646

### Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio, Religious February 25

Born in 1502 into a poor family of Galicia, Spain, Sebastian worked at a domestic servant and laborer. In 1531, he emigrated to Mexico, settling first in Varacruz and later in Puebla of the Angels. After transporting freight and then mail, he became rich by building roads. Yet, he continued to lead a simple life, sleeping on a mat and eating the poorest food while contributing generously to the needy.

In 1552, Sebastian retired to a place near Mexico City where he cultivated the ground and bred livestock. Later at over sixty years of age he wed twice—but each time he was quickly widowed. At the age of seventy, he felt the call to the religious life. Giving all his wealth to the Poor Clares, he joined the Franciscans in Mexico City.

Sebastian was sent to Tecali then to a community of more than a hundred friars in Puebla of the Angels, where he spent the last twenty-five years of his life. He became a begging brother. To obtain food for such a large community, he had to use large carts, drawn by oxen, and traveled donated by charitable people.

Sebastian worked day and night without complaining and in union with his Redeemer. as a result, the images of this venerable old man and his large cart have remained inseparably linked in the history and traditions of the City of Puebla of the Angels. He died in 1600, at the advanced age of ninety-eight and was beatified in 1787 by Pope Pius VI.

**PRAYER:** O God, You were pleased to give us Blessed Sebastian as a model and exemplar of Christian charity by sanctifying the activities of his daily life. Through his intercession, enable us to serve You ever with a pure heart in all the circumstances of our lives. **Amen.**



2ND ANNUAL TRI-PARISH

# Soup & Stations of The Cross

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## Parish Soup Volunteer Schedule:

St X: 2/20  
St. Pats: 2/27  
Mary Queen: 3/6  
St. X: 3/13  
St. Pats: 3/20  
Mary Queen: 3/27

Stations: 5:30  
Supper: 6:00  
Mary Queen Parish



## Calling All Families!

St. Francis Xavier's Catechism and  
Sacramental Preparation classes  
have begun

**Class Dates & Time: 3/28, 4/18 at 9:00am-11:30am**

Classes will take place at St. Thomas More: 505 W St. Thomas More Way Spokane, WA 99208

Classes are divided by "Pre", "Post", and "Prep" for sacraments. Ages are flexible depending on the needs of the student.

Sacrament Date: Confirmation and First Communion- **Monday April 13 at 5:30pm at St. X**

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**Are You Prepared?**  
**End of Life Workshop**  
*Planning for Your Spiritual & Corporal Needs*

**Saturday, March 7 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Mass at 8:30 (optional)  
**St. Anthony Catholic Church**  
2320 N. Cedar St., Spokane, WA 99205

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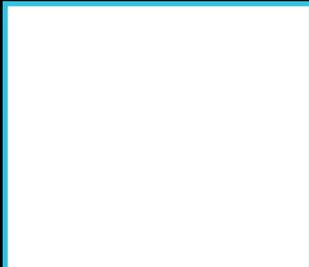
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